

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants:

1. Cancel claims 6 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Add new claims 33 and 34
3. Clarify a patentability remark previously presented.

B. THE NEW CLAIMS

New independent claims 33 and 34 correspond to cancelled claims 6 and 13, respectively. However, unlike cancelled claims 6 and 13, new claims 33 and 34 are written as independent claims based on original claim 1, not an amended version of claim 1.

C. CLARIFICATION OF EARLIER PATENTABILITY AREMARKS

On page 10, lines 5 - 7 of the Amendment filed on December 27, 2002, Applicant stated that the optical element of Rudeen produces a light beam traveling along a single optical path which is first deflected (when the scanning beam strikes upon the second end portion of the optical element). *It should have been noted also that in Rudeen the light beam is then transmitted without deflection (when the scanning beam strikes upon the central portion of the optical element) and finally deflected again (when the scanning beam strikes upon the second end portion of the optical element).*

By contrast, the optical element of the Applicant's device produces at least two different light beams by splitting the collected light beam into two different light beam portions traveling simultaneously along different optical paths.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

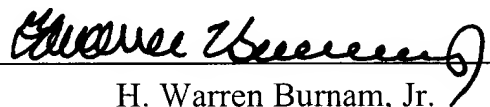
Entry of this Supplemental Amendment is respectfully requested.

OEIVA
Serial No. 09/688,170

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100